



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 1106

January Session, 2005

* SB01106CE 032405 *

AN ACT CONCERNING REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) Any of the following
2 entities may, either individually or in conjunction with one or more
3 other such entities, establish a regional economic development district
4 for the purposes of sections 1 to 5, inclusive, and 7 and 8 of this act and
5 section 16a-27 of the general statutes, as amended by this act: (1) A
6 regional economic development commission formed under section 7-
7 137 of the general statutes, (2) another regional development
8 commission or corporation formed under any other provision of the
9 general statutes or any special act, (3) a regional planning agency
10 organized under the provisions of chapter 127 of the general statutes,
11 (4) a regional council of governments organized under sections 4-124i
12 to 4-124p, inclusive, of the general statutes, or (5) a regional council of
13 elected officials organized under the provisions of chapter 50 of the
14 general statutes for planning and implementation of regional economic
15 development. The entity or entities establishing a regional economic
16 development district shall provide for a board of directors of the
17 district.

18 (b) The boundaries of such districts shall, to the extent practicable,
19 be contiguous with boundaries of the planning regions defined by the
20 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management pursuant to section

21 16a-4a of the general statutes. Each district shall contain at least one
22 area that meets one or more of the criteria of low per capita income,
23 high unemployment or unemployment or economic adjustment
24 problems set forth in 42 USC 3161 and regulations adopted pursuant to
25 Chapter 38 of Title 42 of the United States Code.

26 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) The board of directors of a
27 regional economic development district shall prepare and approve a
28 comprehensive economic development strategy for the district to
29 address identified economic development problems in a manner that
30 promotes economic development and opportunity, fosters effective
31 transportation access, improves workforce development, enhances and
32 protects the environment and balances resources through sound
33 management of development. A comprehensive economic
34 development strategy shall contain:

35 (1) An analysis of economic and community development problems
36 and opportunities, including incorporation of any relevant material or
37 suggestions from other government-sponsored or supported plans;

38 (2) Background and history of the economic development situation
39 in the district, with a discussion of the economy, geography,
40 population, labor force, resources and the environment;

41 (3) A discussion of community participation in the planning efforts
42 for the strategy;

43 (4) The goals and objectives for (A) taking advantage of the
44 opportunities in the district, and (B) solving the economic
45 development problems of the district;

46 (5) A plan of action, including suggested projects to implement the
47 goals and objectives set forth in subdivision (4) of this subsection; and

48 (6) Performance measures that will be used to evaluate whether and
49 to what extent such goals and objectives have been met.

50 (b) Upon approving the comprehensive economic development

51 strategy for a district, the board of directors of the district shall submit
52 the strategy to the regional council of governments, regional councils
53 of elected officials and regional planning agencies serving any portion
54 of the geographical area of such district. Not later than forty-five days
55 after receiving the strategy, said councils or agencies shall review the
56 strategy and notify said board of directors of either their approval of
57 the strategy or recommendations for modifying the strategy for
58 consistency with the regional plan of development required under
59 section 8-35a of the general statutes. If said councils and agencies do
60 not notify the board within said forty-five days, the strategy shall be
61 deemed to have been approved. If said councils and agencies
62 recommend modifications, the board shall modify the strategy in
63 accordance with such recommendations and resubmit the strategy for
64 review in the same manner as for the original submission of the
65 strategy.

66 (c) After approval of the comprehensive economic development
67 strategy under subsection (b) of this section, the board of directors of
68 the district shall submit the strategy to the Commissioner of Economic
69 and Community Development. The commissioner shall review the
70 strategy and, not later than forty-five days after receiving the strategy,
71 shall notify said board of directors of either the commissioner's
72 approval of the strategy or recommendations for modifying the
73 strategy for consistency with title 32 of the general statutes, Chapter 38
74 of Title 42 of the United States Code and regulations adopted pursuant
75 to said Chapter 38 and with the state-wide comprehensive economic
76 development strategy required under section 5 of this act. If the
77 commissioner does not notify the board within said forty-five days, the
78 strategy shall be deemed to have been approved. If said commissioner
79 recommends modifications, the board shall modify the strategy in
80 accordance with such recommendations and resubmit the strategy for
81 review in the same manner as for the original submission of the
82 strategy.

83 (d) The board of directors of a regional economic development
84 district shall update a comprehensive economic development strategy

85 at least once every five years. The board shall submit each updated
86 strategy for review and approval in accordance with the same
87 procedure as for a new strategy under subsections (b) and (c) of this
88 section.

89 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) (a) Upon approval by the
90 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development of a
91 comprehensive economic development strategy for a regional
92 economic development district, the board of directors of said district
93 shall submit the strategy to the United States Secretary of Commerce
94 for approval pursuant to Chapter 38 of Title 42 of the United States
95 Code and regulations adopted pursuant to said Chapter 38, unless
96 such comprehensive economic development strategy was submitted to
97 and approved by said secretary before the effective date of this section.

98 (b) The board of directors of a regional economic development
99 district that submits a comprehensive economic development strategy
100 to the United States Secretary of Commerce or has previously
101 submitted and received the approval of said secretary of such a
102 strategy shall apply to said secretary for federal designation of the
103 economic development district pursuant to Chapter 38 of Title 42 of
104 the United States Code and regulations adopted pursuant to said
105 Chapter 38. Approval by the Commissioner of Economic and
106 Community Development of the comprehensive economic
107 development strategy under section 2 of this act shall be deemed to
108 meet the requirements of said Chapter 38 and regulations with regard
109 to gubernatorial approval of the economic development district
110 application.

111 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) Not later than March 1, 2006, the
112 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development shall
113 prepare a state-wide comprehensive economic development strategy.
114 Such state strategy shall (1) on a state-wide basis, address the issues
115 and include the content required for a regional comprehensive
116 economic development strategy required under subsection (a) of
117 section 2 of this act, and (2) coordinate state-wide and regional

118 economic development planning and policies.

119 Sec. 5. Section 16a-27 of the general statutes is repealed and the
120 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

121 (a) The secretary, after consultation with all appropriate state,
122 regional and local agencies and other appropriate persons shall prior
123 to March 1, 2003, complete a revision of the existing plan and enlarge it
124 to include, but not be limited to, policies relating to transportation,
125 energy and air. Any revision made after May 15, 1991, shall identify
126 the major transportation proposals, including proposals for mass
127 transit, contained in the master transportation plan prepared pursuant
128 to section 13b-15. Any revision made after July 1, 1995, shall take into
129 consideration the conservation and development of greenways that
130 have been designated by municipalities and shall recommend that
131 state agencies coordinate their efforts to support the development of a
132 state-wide greenways system. The Commissioner of Environmental
133 Protection shall identify state-owned land for inclusion in the plan as
134 potential components of a state greenways system.

135 (b) Any revision made after August 20, 2003, shall take into account
136 (1) economic and community development needs and patterns of
137 commerce, and (2) linkages of affordable housing objectives and land
138 use objectives with transportation systems.

139 (c) Any revision made after March 1, 2006, shall (1) take into
140 consideration risks associated with natural hazards, including, but not
141 limited to, flooding, high winds and wildfires; (2) identify the potential
142 impacts of natural hazards on infrastructure and property; [and] (3)
143 make recommendations for the siting of future infrastructure and
144 property development to minimize the use of areas prone to natural
145 hazards, including, but not limited to, flooding, high winds and
146 wildfires; and (4) include the state-wide comprehensive economic
147 development strategy prepared by the Commissioner of Economic and
148 Community Development under section 4 of this act.

149 (d) Thereafter on or before March first in each revision year the

150 secretary shall complete a revision of the plan of conservation and
151 development.

152 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) Regional planning agencies
153 shall include the comprehensive economic development strategies
154 prepared under section 2 of this act in regional plans of development
155 required under section 8-35a of the general statutes.

156 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) The Commissioner of Economic
157 and Community Development may, within available appropriations,
158 make grants of not more than fifty thousand dollars, annually, to
159 regional economic development districts to develop, amend and
160 implement comprehensive economic development strategies under
161 section 2 of this act.

162 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2005*) Projects identified in
163 comprehensive economic development strategies approved by the
164 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the
165 United States Secretary of Commerce under section 3 of this act shall
166 be eligible projects for funding with bond funds available to the
167 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	16a-27
Sec. 6	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>July 1, 2005</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1(a)(1), the reference to section 7-136 was deleted for accuracy.

CE *Joint Favorable Subst.*